

COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES, CHARTER AND RULES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WOBURN CITY HALL

Voting members participating: Chairman Michael Concannon, Alderman Darlene Mercer-Bruen (late), Alderman Edward Tedesco, Alderman Joseph Demers and Alderman Jeffrey Dillon

Non-voting members participating: President Lindsay Higgins, Alderman Robert Ferullo, Alderman Richard Gately, and Alderman Joanne Campbell

Also present: Director of Veterans Affairs Lawrence Guiseppe

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Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Demers to take the Ordinances, Charter & Rules Committee out of order from the posted agenda; all in favor, 4-0 (Mercer-Bruen absent).

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Order to amend Title 12, Article XV, Section 12-58 regarding Municipal Flagpole

Guidelines: Chairman Concannon said Alderman Mercer-Bruen may be a few minutes late. Chairman Concannon said Director Guiseppe is in the audience to address the proposed ordinance regarding municipal flag poles. Director Guiseppe said he presented an ordinance to the council to solidify a few things. He said for the past 10 years he has been responsible for raising and lowering the flag on Woburn Common. He said he lowered the flag on Woburn Common to half-staff to honor Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. He said there is a flagpole on the island near the Mobil gas station. He said the island is called Berardi Square. He said there is a flag flying there all the time. He said currently the flag is for Blue Star mothers. He said the flag recognizes mothers who have children of military personnel who are serving abroad. He said over the past 10 years he has been asked to fly different flags, and he has never refused. He said things took a change this year. He said there is no ordinance to mandate how long flags will be flown. He said the proposed ordinance would only apply to the flags on Berardi Square. He said the ordinance will not apply to flags flown on the common, in North Woburn or at Horn Pond. He said the main reason he put this ordinance together was to designate which flags can be flown. He said it will basically be the job of the veterans services officer. He said the mayor supported the ordinance but it has not been reviewed by the city solicitor. Chairman Concannon said he spoke to the city solicitor and she would like to take a look at it. Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Demers to send a communication to the city solicitor requesting a formal review of the order to amend Title 12, Article XV, Section 12-58 regarding Municipal Flagpole Guidelines; approved, 4-0. Alderman Concannon said the matter will remain in committee until the city solicitor responds. Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Demers to suspend the council's rules to allow aldermen who are not members of the committee to address the proposed ordinance. Alderman Mercer-Bruen arrived. Alderman Gately said there may be a mistake in the ordinance. He said the Portuguese flag was missed. He said he received some input from members of the Portuguese-American Recreation Club asking for the Portuguese flag to be included in the ordinance. He said he would like to see the Portuguese flag added to the list of flags that can be

flown under the auspices of the ordinance. Chairman Concannon said the committee can make a note of that. Director Guiseppe said there are a number of organizations and nationalities that would be covered under the ordinance and he did not list them all. He said by no means was the list he included in the draft of the ordinance a complete list. Alderman Gately said the Portuguese-American Recreation Club members wanted the Portuguese flag included in the ordinance. President Higgins said the phrase “included but not limited to” is in Section D.1.c of the proposed ordinance. Chairman Concannon said the committee can dig a little deeper once the city solicitor responds. Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Demers to return to the regular order of business; approved, 5-0.

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Reading of previous meeting minutes: Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Mercer-Bruen to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 22, 2020; all in favor, 5-0.

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MOTION made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Mercer-Bruen to adjourn; all in favor, 5-0. Chairman Concannon adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.